

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, FR
SUBJECT: REPORT OF PLANNED TRANSNATIONAL UNION OF
MICHELIN EMPLOYEES

1. ACCORDING TO A BRIEF AFP REPORT FROM TURIN,
APPARENTLY NOT PICKED UP IN THE PRESS, A TRANSNATIONAL
TRADE UNION COMMITTEE OF EMPLOYEES OF THE FRENCH
MULTINATIONAL MICHELIN IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING
SET UP. THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE IS SAID TO BE:
"TO UNITE AS MANY EMPLOYEES OF THE FRENCH MULTI-
NATIONAL AS POSSIBLE; AND TO PROMOTE JOINT AND
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PARALLEL FORMS OF ACTION." THE REPORT IS ATTRIBUTED
TO SOURCES WHO ATTENDED A FEBRUARY 24 CONFERENCE AT
TURIN OF MICHELIN-ITALY EMPLOYEES; AND MENTIONS THAT
A DELEGATION OF FRENCH WORKERS FROM THE COMPANY'S
HOME PLANT AT CLERMONT-FERRAND HAD COME TO THE
MEETING AND HAD APPROVED THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
PROPOSED ORGANIZATION.

2. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, NEITHER THE INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL WORKERS FEDERATION (ICF) NOR THE CFDT, NOR FO ARE INVOLVED IN THIS NEW ORGANIZATION, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT IT MAY BE, ON THE FRENCH SIDE AT LEAST, A PURELY CGT INITIATIVE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE PLANNED FORMATION OF THIS NEW GROUP COMES NOT LONG AFTER THE PARENT COMPANY WAS HIT BY A SPONTANEOUS AND UNIVERSALLY OBSERVED STRIKE OVER PLANNED CHANGES IN SHIFT SCHEDULES. THE EFFECT OF THE PLANNED CHANGES, WHICH HAVE BEEN DROPPED, WOULD HAVE BEEN TO ELIMINATE THE THREE FREE WEEKENDS PER MONTH WON BY THE EMPLOYEES IN 1968. IN FRENCH LABOR CIRCLES, MICHELIN DOES NOT ENJOY A REPUTATION FOR EITHER OPENNESS OR PARTICULARLY ENLIGHTENED LABOR RELATIONS. HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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